

3. Skin Care

3.1 STANDARD: Patients taking part in inpatient rehabilitation will be free from new pressure ulcers throughout their stay. All disciplines involved in patient care will take part in the education and prevention of pressure ulcers.

Minimum Requirements:

- Facility has a skin care policy and procedure or guideline in place
- Staff competency conducted for appropriate providers for prevention and standardized assessment of risk
- All care providers are trained to follow facility policy and procedure/guidelines on skin care
- Site-specific skin management program encompassing assessment, prevention and treatment
- Access to certified wound care specialist (WOCN) (for most up-to-date evidence-based care)
- Process in place for measuring outcomes

Recommended Resources:

- PVA Clinical Practice Guide Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment Following Spinal Cord Injury* available for free download at <http://tinyurl.com/m6xubgd>
- PVA Consumer Guide Pressure Ulcers: What you Should Know* available for free download at <http://tinyurl.com/lqff2kv>
- MSKTC SCI Factsheet Skin Care and Pressure Sores in Spinal Cord Injury 6 Part Series available for free at <http://tinyurl.com/k9orwb7>
- Clinical Practice Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers available to purchase at <http://tinyurl.com/kaadnqs> from the Wound Ostomy and Continence Nursing Society at <http://www.wocn.org/>

3.2 STANDARD: Patients with existing pressure ulcers will receive appropriate treatment to decrease severity of existing ulcers and prevent the development of new ulcers.

Minimum Requirements:

- Facility follows professional standards of care for treatment of existing ulcers, such as Clinical Practice Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers per WOCN Society
- Staff competency conducted for appropriate providers for standardized assessment regarding identification and treatment of pressure ulcers
- see 3.1

3.3 STANDARD: Refer to STANDARD 1: Patient/Family/Caregiver Education

Recommended Resources (in addition to Standard 1 resources):

- Online lecture from Lauren Harney, RN, BSN, CWON “The Skin You’re In: An Overview of Maintaining Skin Integrity for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury” available to view at <http://tinyurl.com/ku45awt>

THIS TOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL ADVICE. It is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Never ignore professional medical advice in seeking treatment because of something you have read in the Toolkit. If you think you may have a medical emergency, immediately dial 911.